

Jean Eliot's Letter

(Continued from Eighth Page)
Irene Hancock, daughter of the late General Hancock, is a sister of Mrs. William T. Merriam and of Mrs. Frank P. Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell, by the way, is on her way to Belgium to see her daughter, Viscounte de Beughen.

A private fox hunt was staged yesterday afternoon near Rockville on Tom Viers' farm. Mr. Viers, who was host, has one of the finest farms around Washington, and there he and his sister, who keeps house for him, dispense their hospitality in a charming old-fashioned manner. A number of Washington people were among the guests on this occasion, including Joe Bradley and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Nicholson, and Judge and Mrs. Ed Peter. Some of the dogs in the pack were prize winners at the bench show and field trials in Rockville last week.

Show that the Q street bridge is about completed, it is up to the powers that be to take some action toward giving structure the beautiful approaches

surroundings to which it is entitled virtue of its own innate beauty. A fine concrete roadway, with simple arches and artistic lines, is guarded at either end by huge bronze buffaloes. These mammoth beasts, which cost the District government some \$24,000, are the work of A. Phimister Proctor, of New York, one of the leading animal sculptors of the day, who also designed the tigers on the Sixteenth street bridge. Mr. Proctor obtained his models from a herd of buffalo at Alberta, British Columbia, which is said to contain the finest specimens in the world, and the sculptor spent many weeks in observation of the animals. The buffaloes are, to my mind, both handsomer and more appropriate, more truly American in spirit, than either the tigers or the lions which watch over the entrances to the Connecticut avenue span. They add dignity and high artistic value to a fine and simple structure, but—

Well, the rest of the tale is a sad story. The approach to the bridge from the eastern end, Twenty-third street, is quite shabby, or will be when grass is sown and the details of cleaning up are attended to, of which there is immediate prospect. But at the other end the bridge abuts on the hideous back yard of an unshady car barn and the passer-by must skirt the old colored cemetery at Twenty-seventh street before coming in sight of the fine old mansions of Georgetown. Moreover the beautiful Rock Creek valley beneath the bridge is now a dump, an eyesore, and crying shame to the city.

There is much talk, of course, of the prospect of the continuation of Rock Creek Park, which has been promised for this section of the city; but to date the plans have only gone as far as the selection of a commission composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, and Col. W. H. Harts, U. S. A., in charge of public buildings and grounds, to look into the matter. This commission has no money to spend and is empowered to investigate and make suggestions as to the best thing to be done. Which means that the old residents of both cities, who have been waiting so many years to see the eyesore separating Washington and Georgetown removed, will perhaps have to wait years and years more until Congress gets busy, appropriates the money, and has the job properly attended to. I do hope that something will happen to hurry them up, so that this generation may see that section of the city the beautiful place it should be before we are all to old and doddering to appreciate beauty.

Of course the handsome residences in the region of Sheridan circle do much to enhance the artistic value of the bridge, and its approaches, and one of the most imposing houses of the lot is the big white stone beauty at the southwest corner of Twenty-third street, whose terraces overhang the Rock Creek valley. The mansion has been a-building for several years, is even yet not quite complete, and now I hear that the owner, Edward H. Everett of Vermont, is not going to occupy it at all. According to the story, he built the house particularly for the pleasure of his daughter, who ran off and married while it was in the course of construction. Mr. Everett is a stranger in Washington, has never lived here, and now, I am told, has other plans. He has an enormously large income from royalties on some process or invention connected with the blowing of glass bottles.

It seems a crime for the house to lie idle, for it is truly magnificent and boasts among other marvels a huge marble swimming pool under the entire lower floor. Dame Rumor has it, moreover, that the foundations of the house alone cost nearly \$40,000, as it has been erected on made ground and to be supported underground to a great depth.

Socially, the appointment of Dr. Koo as minister, the appointment of Dr. Koo as minister can but meet with approval in Washington. His wife, who is little more than a girl, is the daughter of Tang Shao-Yi, President Yuan's premier in the early days of the republic. She is also a graduate of Columbia, and her older sisters came to Washington with Dr. Chang several years ago, when he was appointed minister. One of them married the minister's son, Henry Chang, the ceremony taking place in Washington with all the ceremonial attendant upon a Chinese wedding. Miss Koo is one of the most charming of China's young women, has many graces and accomplishments, and is already known to many Washington society folk. Indeed, the interesting pair are sure to take an important and interesting part in the social life of the Capital.

The new minister, says Prof. Jenkins, is as witty as he is wise. His youth may be regarded as an asset rather than a handicap. At any rate, he would seem to be a born statesman, like William Pitt, if it taunted with his youthfulness can reply in the words of that brilliant genius: "That is a fault which I am doing my best to remedy every day."

Now, men and I must bring this long epistle to a close, with the hope that I may hear from you soon.

Tours, affectionately,
Jean Eliot

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